[Translation]

Supply of Cloth to Consumers at Reasonable Rates

*637 SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: SHRI RAM SAHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide cloth to the consumers at reasonable rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to monitor proper implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). 1. Government have been implementing the Janata Cloth Scheme in the handloom sector and controlled cloth Scheme in the organised mill sector (NTC). The objectives of these schemes are to provide sustained employment to the under employed and unemployed weavers and to make cloth available at affordable prices to the poorer sections especially in the rural areas. The Janata Cloth Scheme is implemented by the State Directors of handlooms and carries a subsidy of Rs. 3.40 per sq. metre. The controlled cloth scheme being implemented by National Textile Corporation carries a subsidy of Rs. 2 per metre in respect of dhoti and saree, Rs. 1.50 per metre in respect of long cloth and Rs. 2.50 per metre in respect of polyester cotton controlled cloth.

2. For proper monitoring of implementation of Janata Cloth Scheme, guidelines have been issued that the Nodal Agencies should carry out physical inspection at least once in a quarter and that each State would set up a State level Standing Monitoring Committee which will review all aspects of implementation of the Janata Cloth Scheme every quarter.

3. The controlled Cloth produced by NTC is distributed through National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF), State Cooperatives, NTC retail dealers and authorised dealers of NTC. Any complaints of diversion of Controlled Cloth are looked into and corrective measures taken.

[English]

Electronic Meters on Taxis and Autorickshaws in Delhi

*638. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electronic meters proposed to be installed in taxis and autorickshaws in Delhi have failed to com up to the required standard for being water proof;

(b) if so, the reasons for insisting on the installation of these meters on the taxis and autorickshaws in Delhi; and

(c) the present positlon in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The Delhi Administration have stated that the Electronic Meters proposed to be installed in taxis and autorickshaws have not been tested for being waterproof. No decision has been taken regarding installation of the Meters and, therefore, the question of insisting on the installation of these Meters on the taxis and autorickshaws in Delhi does not arise.

Indian Road Construction Corporation

*640. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Road Construction Corporation has ben running in loss for the last several years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the Corporation viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the Corporation viable are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Income Tax on Dearness Allowance

*641. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government compensate the employees for rise in the prices during a fixed period by paying dearness allowance; and

(b) if so, the justification for including the amount of dearness allowance in the income of the employees while calculating income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Under the existing formula based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, Government of India compensates its employees for rise in the prices by grant of Dearness Allowance twice in a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary of March and September respectively.

(b) The justification for including the amount of dearness allowance in the income of the employees while calculating income tax is that dearness allowance is calculated on the pre-tax salary of an employee.

[English]

Price of Tea and Coffee Seeds

*642. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken to reduce there price of tea and coffee seeds sold to the consumers and to check their hoarding and profiteering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): In the case of tea, the retail prices of some of the brands have come down between January, 1991 and July, 1991.

(Rs./Kg.)

	Brooke Bond Red Label	Liptons Yellow Label
January, 1991	64.00	66.70
July, 1991	62.00	62.00

With regard to coffee, prices had gone up during January, 1991 to March, 1991 on account of a len crop during the previous year. However, adequate quantities have been available after March, 1991 and the retail prices have come down, as indicated below for raw coffee.